



Commonwealth of Kentucky Labor Cabinet

1047 US 127 SOUTH
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601-1975

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Larry L. Roberts, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Daniel Lowry
502.564.3219
502.545.9089



Jackson Purchase Energy Corp. Earns Second Straight Governor's Safety and Health Award

Member-owned cooperative has gone nearly half a million work hours without a lost-time incident

PADUCAH, Ky. (Sept. 30, 2014) – Department of Workplace Standards Commissioner Anthony Russell with the Kentucky Labor Cabinet joined Jackson Purchase Energy Corp. (JPEC) employees and officials in Paducah to honor the electricity provider with the Governor's Safety and Health Award. The honor recognizes the member-owned cooperative's 493,132 hours without a lost-time accident or illness.

Kentucky Labor Secretary Larry L. Roberts applauded the achievement, which covers the calendar year of 2013. JPEC last earned the honor in November 2013, which recognized the period of February 2011 through December 2012. JPEC has not had a lost-time incident since Feb. 23, 2011.

"JPEC did not rest on its laurels after earning the Governor's Safety and Health Award last year," said Secretary Roberts. "The cooperative has dedicated itself to safety, and that commitment has grown into a long-standing tradition and safety culture at JPEC."

Incorporated in 1937, JPEC now has 73 employees and provides electricity to more than 30,000 accounts in portions of six counties, including Ballard, Carlisle, Graves,

Livingston, Marshall and McCracken. Headquartered in Paducah, JPEC is a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, a network of more than 1,000 electric cooperatives nationwide.

“Today we celebrate a single event, the awarding of the Governor’s Safety and Health Award -- but every minute of the day JPEC celebrates the accomplishment of the goal of working safely,” said G. Kelly Nuckols, president and CEO of JPEC. “The effort of working safely is shared by all of JPEC. From the workers in the ditch or on the utility pole, to the management team, to the board of directors (which approves budgets to include proper and necessary safety equipment and training), all are focused on safety.”

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 816 represents the electrical workers of JPEC. The IBEW’s active members and retirees are involved in a variety of fields, including utilities, construction, telecommunications, broadcasting, manufacturing, railroads and government.

“This is a great testament to the training, skills and commitment the members of Local Union 816 have toward safety while providing the highest quality of workmanship,” said Jimmy Evans, business manager of IBEW Local 816.

The Kentucky Labor Cabinet presents the Governor’s Safety and Health Award in recognition of outstanding safety and health performance. An establishment may qualify for the award if its employees together achieve a required number of hours worked without experiencing a lost-time injury or illness. The required number of hours is dependent upon the number of employees. In the case of JPEC, the requirement is 250,000.

The Governor’s Safety and Health Award program is part of Gov. Steve Beshear’s efforts to improve the health of all Kentuckians. The Governor launched [kyhealthnow](#) in February as an aggressive and wide-ranging initiative to significantly reduce incidents and deaths from Kentucky’s dismal health rankings and habits. It builds on Kentucky’s successful implementation of health care reform and uses multiple strategies over the next several years to improve the state’s collective health.

Every establishment within the geographical boundaries of Kentucky is eligible, even if the establishment won the award the previous year. Eligibility is limited to one award during a 12-month period of time.

The award is a certificate mounted on a wooden plaque. The certificate contains the signatures of Gov. Beshear, Secretary Roberts and Commissioner Russell.

For more on the Governor’s Safety and Health Award and for a list of past recipients, click [here](#).

For more on JPEC, visit www.jpenergy.com.

#



The Kentucky Labor Cabinet's primary responsibility is to ensure that divisions and offices falling under the auspices of the Cabinet work within the jurisdiction of Kentucky labor law to ensure equitable and fair treatment of the Commonwealth's more than 1.9 million wage-earning employees. The Cabinet, according to regulation, has the duties, responsibilities, power, and authority relating to labor, wage and hour issues, occupational safety and health of employees, child labor, apprenticeship, workers' compensation insurance, and all other matters under the jurisdiction of the Labor Cabinet. For more information, visit www.labor.ky.gov/.

